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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

Rapporteur: Mr. Roman KUZNIAR

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* Documents E/CN.4/1998/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1998/L.11 and addenda.

XIII. STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The Commission considered agenda item 13 concurrently with item 14 (see chap. XIV) at its 12th and 13th meetings, on 23 and 24 March, and at its 31st meeting, on 3 April 1998. 1/

2. For the documents issued under agenda item 13, see annex IV to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairman's statements, by agenda item, see annex V to the present report.

3. In the general debate on agenda item 13, statements 2/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Argentina (13th), Brazil (13th), China (13th), India (13th), Ireland (12th), Italy (12th), Republic of Korea (13th), Russian Federation (13th), Uruguay (13th).

4. The Commission heard statements by the observers for: Armenia (13th), Estonia (12th), Norway (12th), Romania (13th), Singapore (13th), Swaziland (13th). The observer for Switzerland also made a statement (13th).

5. The Commission also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters (13th), American Association of Jurists (12th), Amnesty International (12th), Asian Cultural Forum on Development (12th), Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation (13th), Human Rights Advocates (13th), International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples (12th), Transnational Radical Party (12th), World Muslim Congress (13th).

Question of the death penalty

6. At the 31st meeting, on 3 April 1998, the representative of Italy introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.12, sponsored by Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia,

Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela. Andorra, Angola, Canada and Israel subsequently joined the sponsors.

7. A statement in connection with the draft resolution was made by the representative of China.

8. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Bhutan, Madagascar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tunisia and the United States of America.

9. The representative of the United States of America requested a vote. At the request of the representative of Italy, a roll-call vote was taken on draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.12, which was adopted by 26 votes to 13, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Congo, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Sudan, United States of America.

Abstaining: Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Madagascar, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda.

10. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the representative of Bangladesh.

11. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/8.

Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights

12. At the 31st meeting, on 3 April 1998, the observer for Norway introduced draft decision E/CN.4/1998/L.13, sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Canada, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovakia,

South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela. Bulgaria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Ukraine and Uruguay subsequently joined the sponsors.

13. Paragraph 11 of the draft resolution was orally revised by the observer for Norway by inserting the numbers of the relevant general comments.

14. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/9.

Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

15. At the 31st meeting, on 3 April 1998, the observer for Armenia introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.14, sponsored by Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nepal, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Uganda and the United States of America. Albania, Angola, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, El Salvador, Israel, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Portugal subsequently joined the sponsors.

16. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/10.